

Meeting was called to order by Chair Person Renee Hyde, at 9:00 AM

Attendees

Cheryl Burrell
 Andy Defreece
 Don Eberle
 Susan Evans
 Tina Forte
 Steven Gray
 Scott Gregory
 Jan Handa
 Michele Hensley
 Renee Hyde
 Randy Johnson
 Ann Nickerson
 Marcella Rademacher
 Deb Ross
 Barbara Schweiger
 Bryan Seck
 Lisa St. Clair
 Bob Uhing
 Donald Weber

NDE Staff

Brad Conner
 Pat Frost
 Jan Handa
 Randy McIntyre
 Cathy Mohnike
 Deb Romanek
 Terri Schuster
 Karen Stevens
 Diane Stuehmer

Guests

Tara James
 Amy Neeman

Absentee Members

Sue Henry
 Melody Hobson
 Ben King
 Kraig Lofquist
 Mary Ann Losh
 Julie Schmitz
 Kristin Schultz
 Beth Zillig

Welcome/Introductions

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Programs Administrator, introduced our newest committee member Marcella Rademacher. Marcella currently serves on the Freeman School Board located in Adams, Nebraska. We look forward to her valuable input.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Reminder

Renee Hyde, Chairperson reminded the committee to follow the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A written copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review at all Committee of Practitioner's Meetings.

Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2015 meeting

Lisa St. Clair made a motion to approve meeting minutes with corrections as pointed out by Diane. Bob Uhing seconded and the motion was carried.

Motion to re-elect Renee Hyde as chairperson for 2015-2016 term

A motion was made by Sue Evans to elect Renee Hyde as chairperson for the 2015-2016 term. Lisa St.Clair seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Administrators' Days: NDE Day – Wednesday, July 29th

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Program's administrator announced this year's NDE Day at Administrator Days will focus on "A QuESTT – Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow." The NDE Federal Programs Team will be presenting three different sessions; of which none will be repeated.

Update on Math Standards (Deb Romanek)

Deb Romanek, NDE Mathematics Director, updated the committee on the status of revising/updating the state math standards. A survey requesting feedback on the proposed mathematics standards was available until May 29, 2015. The outcome of this survey was given to the committee in a handout and is also available on the NDE website.

One of the key changes to developing the new standards is in the area of college and career readiness. Deb Romanek shared with the committee they are currently hosting a Business Connection workshop in collaboration with teachers and local businesses. Teachers are visiting five local businesses to determine how math concepts are applied in the workplace and partnering with these businesses to gather information which will be a useful tool in developing math standards.

- A Public meeting will be held August 4, 2015 for input concerning standards.
- Ms. Romanek is targeting the (September 3, 2015) Nebraska State Board meeting for approval of these new standards.

Additional information can be found at the following website [http: www.education.ne.gov/math/index.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/math/index.html) .

NCLB Waiver Request Status

Diane Stuehmer updated the committee with the status of the NCLB Waiver Request. As of the time of this meeting no response has been received from USDE (United States Department of Education).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Update

Diane updated the committee on the number of schools/districts that participated in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) through the National School Lunch Program, for the 2014-15 school year. It is anticipated that a few more schools will participate in the CEP program for 2015-16.

Tina Forte' stated that Omaha Public Schools currently has 6 pilot schools. They are considering developing a form to collect poverty and demographic information, which is independent of the NSLP (National School Lunch Program) forms. Diane reminded the group that both USDE and USDA discourage the use of alternate forms for collecting this data, as one of the purposes of CEP is to reduce burden. Conducting a survey just for Title I would add burden that may not be necessary. The guidance does allow conducting such surveys, but LEAs must ensure that it does not in any way indicate that the survey is required by NDE, USDE, or USDA.

NDE Reorganization

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that Mary Ann Losh will be retiring in December. She will continue working until her retirement. Staff from *Office of Equity & Instructional Strategies Team* will be reassigned to *Federal Programs, Office of Special Education, and Accreditation and School Improvement Teams*- this move will be effective August 1, 2015.

Newly Hired Staff

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee of newly hired staff. Karen Hardin will join Title I / Accountability staff in mid-July. Brooke will join the NDE Federal Programs Team in mid-August and will assist Terri Schuster with the Title III (ELL) program.

School Improvement Grant (SIG)

Randy McIntyre, Title I Accountability and SIG Coordinator, informed the committee there were 5 School Improvement Grant (SIG) applications submitted by the June 1 deadline. The total available to award for the new cohort is approximately \$2,900,000 and the five applicants were requesting over 7 million dollars. Of the five applicants, three were chosen as finalists and participated in team phone interviews. Based upon the applications and the team interviews, it appears that two grants will be awarded and all of the available funds will be awarded. The State Board of Education will act upon the SIG awards at their August 2015 board meeting.

Title I-A

Updated NDE Federal Programs Staff District Assignments will be posted in August. A link to the website is provided for your information: <http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/Index.html>.

Title I-A Cohort Scenario

Diane presented some scenarios and questions that have arisen regarding graduation cohorts when two or more districts merge. Pam Tagart, from the NDE Data and Research Team, had put together two diagrams with explanations of the scenarios. (See attached.) Based on the scenarios, NDE made the following two recommendations:

1. Districts that are merged into a new district will start with the cohort in the school year they opened.
2. Districts that are merged into an existing district will start with the cohort in the school year they opened as a merged district.

After a discussion about the pros and cons of the suggested actions, a motion was made by Bob Uhing to adopt the merger recommendations, as presented. Ann Nickerson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken for the members in attendance with a unanimous vote in favor of merger recommendations.

SES Applications

The committee divided into subgroups and reviewed thirty-one SES applications that were submitted. This process continued through lunch and into the afternoon.

Title I, Part D: Delinquent

Pat Frost, Title I Consultant and Title I, Part D State Coordinator, shared information regarding the May, National Title I Part, D conference. 2015 Conference panelists included members from the OCR (Office of Civil Rights) for education and justice; career and vocational directors from USDE; Office of Special Education, Juvenile Justice Office, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools. Ms. Frost gave information about an upcoming webinar that Nebraska was asked to participate in this July. It will focus on meeting needs of special education students in juvenile facilities. This is the third national webinar Nebraska has participated in for the AIR (American Institutes for Research), Neglected/Delinquent Technical Assistance Center. Scott Gregory, Principal at Geneva North, shared information regarding the June 19th meeting for Rule 18 and Special Purpose Schools presented by NDE's Accreditation Team and the Nebraska Systems Coordinator. Five of the Rule 18 schools and three Special Purpose Schools receive supplemental Title I, Part D funding through districts and state agencies. The informational data and procedures workshop was well received by the various school staff attending.

Title II-A: Improving Teacher Quality

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Programs Administrator informed the committee of results of a recent federal review of Nebraska's Title II-A equitable services. NDE calculations indicated that over the past five years, approximately fifty public school districts had failed to properly budget enough Title II-A funds to provide equitable services to the nonpublic schools located within the district's boundaries. As a result, these schools were notified that they must meet with the nonpublic schools and reach an agreement about how to resolve this prior under-budgeted amount. Beginning in 2014-15, NDE created an additional page in the ESEA/NCLB Consolidated Application to ensure that the minimum equitable services amounts for nonpublic schools are calculated properly.

Public District representatives were given a deadline of July 1 to submit documentation to NDE of the agreements reached with the nonpublic schools. Some districts will be budgeting an additional amount annually for Title II-A over the next five years to pay for nonpublic equitable services, some will address the shortfall all in one year, while others have agreed that no additional funding is necessary. NDE will report the consultation results to USDE and will monitor this 'pay back' process over the next five years to confirm that the agreements reached are being honored.

Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

Karen Stevens, Title IV, Part B Coordinator informed the committee LB379 sponsored by Senator Bolz has been amended to LB519. LB519 will be funded with one percent of lottery proceeds. These funds will be used to encourage after school and other extended learning opportunities for students.

Ms. Stevens asked the committee for input on how to provide a framework to sustain funding for 21st Century programs.

Information can be found on their website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/>

Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program**SRSA – Small Rural School Achievement Program****RLIS – Rural Low-Income School Program**

Brad Conner, Title I, Title II-A consultant, and REAP Coordinator, updated the committee on funding status. Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) and Rural Low Income Schools (RLIS) are expected to remain at the same levels as 2014-15. NE schools receive \$3,708,000 in SRSA funds for 181 districts, and \$87,191 in RLIS funds for three districts. Due to changes in poverty levels as calculated by the USDE, Nebraska will only have two districts eligible for RLIS funding in 2015-16. All current SRSA schools remain eligible for the upcoming year. RLIS and SRSA funds are very flexible and can be utilized for any type of activities that would ordinarily be allowed under any Title I-Title VI grant programs.

Title X, Part C: Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Cathy Mohnike, State Homeless Education Coordinator, reported on the 2015-16 McKinney-Vento competitive grant. Twelve schools have submitted applications; Crete, Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, Scottsbluff, PLV, Westside, Hastings, Lexington, Kearney, Grand Island and Ralston. The grants were sent to the readers/reviewers on Monday, June 22nd and are due on July 10th. She reminded the group a rule of thumb is that around 10% of students in poverty will experience homelessness sometime throughout a school year. Cathy and two school homeless liaisons from Scottsbluff attended a district training held in Wyoming. Wyoming is one of the states that require individuals to obtain training hours before they can qualify as a district liaison. Nebraska does not currently have this requirement.

Title III: Language Acquisition

Terri Schuster, Title III and ELPA-21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century) Coordinator updated the committee with the following information:

ELPA-21

- Testing Window Feb. 8 - Mar. 18, 2016
- Vendor Contract: Questar, one year only
 - Kick-Off Meeting with the vendor is scheduled for July 9th. Topics of Discussion include:
 - Schedule
 - Test Design
 - Deliverables
 - Scoring and Reporting
 - Program Management & Customer Support
 - Standard Setting will take place following the administration of the first operational forms, early summer 2016

AMAOs (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives)

- The AMAO determinations for 2015 will be based on Spring ELDA data. There are no changes from previous years.
- As Nebraska transition to new tests, meeting AMAOs is still required.
- Title III AMAOs are not addressed in Nebraska's flexibility waiver request
- USDE is not going to allow a waiver for AMAO I (making improvement) in the transition between two assessments even though two student data points are needed for calculation. Because of this, Nebraska will need to do the following:
 - Conduct a bridging study between ELDA (English Language Development Assessment) and ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century)
 - Look at new models/possibly reset targets (AMAO II)
 - Have discussions with USDE in the coming months
 - For any changes, we would have to apply for approval by submitting an amendment to the consolidated Application- Title III Accountability section

Educator Equity Plan

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that the Educator Equity Plan presented at the March 24, 2015 meeting by Marilyn Peterson and Sharon Katt was submitted by the June 1st deadline. To date NDE has had no follow-up correspondence from USDE.

Meeting was adjourned by Renee Hyde at 2:18 P.M.

Next Meetings

October 20, 2015, Fairfield Inn, Kearney

March 15, 2016, Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln